(*a*) whether the Government have enquired into the details of the expenditure of the annual grant of Rs. (3,000) three thousand given to the Y. M. C. A., for the Martandam Rural Centre; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, what the details are?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) (*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Abolition of the monopoly of royal trees.

201 ***MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON** (*Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have finally abolished the monopoly of royal trees standing on the western side of the Main Central Road, as per notification published in the Royalty Committee Report; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether a proclamation has been published in the Gazette to that effect?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

Marketing Officers.

202 ***MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON** (*Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the Marketing Officers were appointed;

(*b*) the average monthly cost on account of them and their establishment; and

(*c*) the nature of their work?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) A Marketing Officer was appointed from the 18th Kanni 1111.

(*b*) His salary is Rs. 150 per mensem and the cost of his establishment, which consists of a clerk on Rs. 25-40 and a peon on Rs. 9-11, amounts to Rs. 34 per mensem at present.

(*c*) His function is to conduct, in co-operation with the Imperial and Provincial Staff of Marketing Officers, a survey of the marketing of agricultural products including dairy and animal husbandry products and fish, and detect defects in existing practices and suggest remedies.

The Travancore Sugars.

203 ***MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the State's relationship with the Travancore Sugars, Ltd., Thuckala; and

(*b*) whether it is a profitable or losing concern now?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) (*a*) Government have taken 16,666 fully paid up shares of the value of Rs. 2,49,990 in the Travancore Sugars and granted, on the security of its properties, movable and immovable, a loan of Bh. Rs. 1,00,000 and a cash credit of Rs. 50,000 to be drawn by the Sugars from time to time according to necessities.

(*b*) It was working as a profitable concern for some time, but it has not been working from June last as the contractors have not been able presumably to find sufficient funds to work the concern.

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